

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0003] There is generally known such a type of sheet shutter device wherein engaging pieces are secured to both side portions of a sheet-shaped shutter curtain so as to be spaced at a predetermined pitch-distance in the opening/closing direction, and the engaging pieces are engagingly fitted in rail grooves of guide rails at both side portions of the opening portion so as not to be detachable from the rail grooves and are made to run within the rail grooves, thereby opening/closing the opening portion. In this type of sheet shutter device, because the shutter curtain is formed of a sheet member having flexibility, the shutter curtain is greatly deformed when a large wind blast or a load from an obstruction is applied thereto, so that the guide rail or shutter curtain may be damaged.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0006] The disclosure addresses the foregoing situation to solve the above problems. In a sheet shutter device in which fitting pieces are provided at both side portions of a sheet-shaped shutter curtain so as to be spaced from one another at a predetermined pitch-distance in a vertical direction and made to run while engagedly fitted in rail grooves of guide rails provided at both side portions of an opening portion, thereby opening/closing the opening portion, the rail grooves are designed so that the fitting pieces come off from the rail grooves under an excessive load imposed on the shutter curtain, a posture holding bar is provided to at least the lower end portion of the shutter curtain so as to be spaced from the fitting pieces in the curtain width direction, and at the upper side of each of the rail grooves a first guide body is provided for guiding the posture holding bar to an opposing part to each of the rail grooves and a second guide body for guiding the fitting piece at the lower end portion of the shutter curtain to an opposing part to each of the rail grooves in conformity with a timing at which

the posture holding bar is guided to the opposing part to the rail groove by the first guide body are provided at the upper side of each of the rail grooves.

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0008] Further, a second guide body is formed to be longer in the vertical direction than the ~~pitch~~predetermined distance of the fitting pieces. With this structure, the guidance of the fitting piece toward the rail groove can be further reliably carried out.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0012] The freely deformable piece of the third guide body is formed so as to be located in ~~an opposing~~a gap between the guideways that are opposite one another at the lower side of the first guide body. With this structure, the opening/closing operation can be smoothly performed, and the fitting piece coming off from the rail groove can be reliably restored to the original state.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0052] A rail body 9, which is elongated in the vertical direction, is attached to the recess groove portion 8b of each support rail 8 so as to be freely movable in the right-and-left direction. The rail body 9 is integrally molded using a flexible resin material, and designed so as to be opened at the opening portion side and have a rail groove 9a in which fitting pieces 5 equipped to the shutter curtain 1 are engagedly fitted. Come-off-preventing pieces 9b for preventing coming out of the fitting pieces 5 from the rail grooves 9a are formed at the opening portion of the rail grooves 9a. Under the state that the rail body 9 is located in each support rail recess groove portion 8b and deformation of each rail groove 9a is regulated by the support piece portion 8a, the come-off-preventing piece 9b prevents the fitting pieces 5 from coming off from, or out of, the rail groove 9a. On the other hand, as described later, when the fitting pieces 5 pull the rail body 9 inward to the opening portion and thus slide from the support rail recess groove portion 8b by a predetermined displacement amount, so

that the fitting pieces 5 come outside the support rail recess groove portion 8b, the regulation of the deformation of the rail groove 9a by the support piece portion 8a is lost, and thus the rail groove 9a is deformed, so that the fitting pieces 5 come off, or out of, from the rail groove 9a.

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0067] That is, there is a space between the curtain entrance/exit port 2b and the upper end portion of the rail groove 9a of the pair of guide rails 4, and in the space the first guide body 15 is provided for guiding (positionally regulating) the posture holding bar 14, which is attached to the lowermost end of the shutter curtain 1, to base positions with respect to the rail groove 9a. The base positions are the positions where the end face of the posture ~~holding~~-holding bar 14 is parallel to the bottom face of the rail groove 9a (Figs. 2 and 3) and are referred to as an opposing position to each of the rail grooves ~~9a in the claims~~.—9a. The first guide body 15 is formed of resin material having no flexibility (resin material having flexibility may be used), and comprises a pair of guide pieces 15a for clamping the end portion of the posture holding bar 14 from the front and rear sides. Each guide piece 15a is fixed to one side piece 7a of the fixing bracket 7 so as to provide a predetermined opposing gap in the front-and-rear directions. Each guide piece 15a projects so as to be nearer to the opening portion side than the support rail 8 constituting the guide rail 4 and so that opposing faces are formed so as to face the end portions of the posture holding bar 14 from the front-and-rear directions. Opposing faces, located at an intermediate position in the vertical direction, are formed on the guide faces 15b so that the interval therebetween is slightly larger than the outer diameter of the posture holding bar 14. The opposing face of each guide piece 15a has a lower side guideway 15c, which is continuous to the lower end of the guide face 15b and inclined so that the opposing interval is increased toward the lower side, and an

upper guideway 15d, which is continuous to the upper end of the guide face 15b and inclined so that the opposing interval is increased toward the upper side.

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0069] The third guide body 17 (Figs. 7(A)-7(c)) is formed of flexible resin material as in the case of the second guide body 16 and rail body 9. A guide groove 17b having an coming-off preventing piece 17a like the rail groove 9a is integrally formed in the vertical direction. The third guide body 17 is disposed in such a vertical positional relationship that the upper end edge is substantially coincident with the lower end edge of the first guide body 15 (Fig. 5), and the lower end edge is integrally joined so as to be fitted over the upper end portion of the rail groove 9a while the third guide groove 17b and the rail groove 9a intercommunicate with each other. Furthermore, freely-deformable pieces 17c are formed at the upper end edge of the third guide body 17 so as to extend from the front-and-rear side pieces. The freely-deformable pieces 17c are more flexible than the third guide body 17, and are displaced in the-a front-and-rear directions-direction (the direction that is perpendicular to the curtain face,) by press-a pressing force of the fitting pieces 5 described later. The freely-deformable pieces 17c are located in the opposing gap between the lower side guideways 15c of the first guide body so that the upper end edges thereof extend to the lower side guideways 15c and oppose the lower end portions of the second guide body 16 in proximity to the lower end portions. The third guide body 17 is designed so that the groove width is increased and also the length thereof in the right-and-left direction is gradually lengthened proceeding to the upper end, and guideways 17d whose gap is increased to the upper side thereof are formed at the upper end edges of the coming-off preventing pieces 17a.

Please replace paragraph [0071] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0071] On the other hand, when the posture holding bar 14 and the fitting pieces 5 located at the right and left side portions thereof come off from the guide rails 4, the fitting

pieces 5 which are located at higher positions than the posture holding lever-bar 14 and come off from the guide rails 4 are freely wound up around the winding drum 3 by opening the shutter curtain 1 as described above, and thus the fitting pieces 5 are not necessarily required to be engagedly fitted in the second guide groove 16c.

Please replace paragraph [0072] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0072] When the posture holding bar 14 that has come off from the guide rail 4 is moved upwardly, the posture holding bar 14 abuts against any one of the front and rear lower side guideways 15c of the first guide body 15 and is guided to the guide face 15b side. Here, the maximum opposing gap (groove width) between the lower-side guideways 15c of the first guide body 15 is set from the maximum displacement amount of the posture holding lever-bar 14 based on the shutter curtain 1 amount fed from the case entrance/exit portion 2b, and the posture holding bar 14 interferes with the lower side guideways 15c under the state that the fitting pieces 5 of the lower end portion come off from the guide rail 4. At this time, the fitting pieces 5 which are located at the lower end portion and at the right and left side portions of the posture holding bar 14 are located in the vicinity of the upper portion of the third guide body 17. Therefore, the posture holding bar 14 is displaced to the guide face 15b side while guided by the lower side guideways 15c, and in connection with this displacement of the posture holding bar 14, the fitting pieces 5 press the freely deformable pieces 17c as indicated by an virtual line of Fig. 9, and guides the fitting pieces 5 to the second guide groove 16c side while deforming the freely deformable pieces 17c. The fitting pieces 5 of the lower end portion reach the lower side of the second guide groove 16c in conformity with the timing at which the posture holding bar 14 reaches the guide faces 15b and is guided so as to regulate the position in the front-and-rear directions (posture correction) (see the virtual line of Fig. 6).

Please replace paragraph [0075] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0075] When the closing operation is carried out on the shutter curtain 1 from the full-open state, at least the fitting pieces 5 which are located at the lower end portion and also at both sides of the posture holding bar 14 are engagedly fitted in the second guide grooves 16b and thus restored to the original posture. Therefore, when the closing operation is carried out on the shutter curtain 1, the shutter curtain 1 is downwardly moved in conformity with the posture of the lower end portion. Therefore, with respect to even the intermediate portion of the shutter curtain 1 taken up around the winding drum 3 while the fitting pieces 5 come off from the second guide groove 16b, the posture of the intermediate portion is restored while displaced between the winding drum 3 and the second guide body 16, and the fitting pieces 5 are engagedly fitted in the second guide groove 16b and guided to the opposing base position with respect to the rail groove 9a, namely toward the rail groove 9a, whereby all the fitting pieces 5 located at the opening portion are engagedly fitted in the rail groove 9a by setting the shutter curtain 1 to the fully closed posture. Here, the length in the vertical direction of the second guide body 16 is set to be longer than the arrangement pitch-distance of the fitting pieces 5 provided to the shutter curtain 1. Therefore, under the state that a precedent fitting piece 5 is engagedly fitted in the second guide groove 16b and guided toward the rail groove 9a, the following fitting piece 5 is engagedly fitted in the second guide groove 16b, whereby all the subsequent fitting pieces 5 are engagedly fitted in the second guide groove 16b.

Please replace paragraph [0079] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0079] Furthermore, because the length in the vertical direction of the second guide body 16 is longer than the arrangement pitch-distance of the fitting pieces 5 of the shutter curtain 1, the next fitting piece 5 is guided toward the second guide groove 16b side during the period when the fitting piece 5 at the lower end portion is being guided to the second guide groove 16b in the process of the closing operation of the shutter curtain 1. Therefore,

guidance of the fitting pieces 5 to the second guide groove 16b is made reliable, so that the guidance of the fitting pieces 5 to the confronting site to the rail groove 9a can be further reliably carried out.

Please replace paragraph [0111] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0111] A pair of fourth guide bodies 33 corresponding to the integrated assembly of the first and second guide bodies 15, 16 of the first embodiment are provided between the upper end portion of each of the right and left guide rails 25 and the winding drum 3. That is, the fourth guide bodies 33 are provided between the winding drum 3 and the upper end portion of the rail groove 9a of the pair of right and left guide rails 25. The posture holding bar 14, provided to the lowermost end portion of the shutter curtain 1, is guided (positionally oriented) to the opposing position to the rail groove 9a in the front-and-rear directions. The fourth guide bodies 33 may be formed of resin material having no flexibility (resin material having flexibility may be used), and fixed to the fixing bracket 26 as in the case of the first embodiment. Guide faces 33a are formed on the respective fourth guide bodies 33 so that they are located inside in the right-and-left direction so as to sandwich the end portion of the posture holding bar 14 from the front and rear sides in proximity with each other. These guide faces 33a are designed to be longer than the arrangement ~~pitch-(interval)-distance~~ of the fitting pieces 5 of the shutter curtain 1, whereby the degree of freedom of the positional relationship between the posture holding bar 14 and the fitting piece 5 located at the lowermost end can be increased. A fitting piece guiding portion 33b is formed at the outside of the guide faces 33a in the right-and-left direction while the confronting interval thereof is narrowed so that the fitting piece 5 is guided so as to oppose the upper side of the support rail 29 constituting the guide rail 25 while being prevented from coming off. Step faces 33c opposing the right and left end faces of the posture holding bar 14 are formed between the guide faces 33a and the fitting piece guide portion 33b. Accordingly, the positional

regulation (positioning) of the posture holding the bar 14 in the right-and-left direction is carried out.